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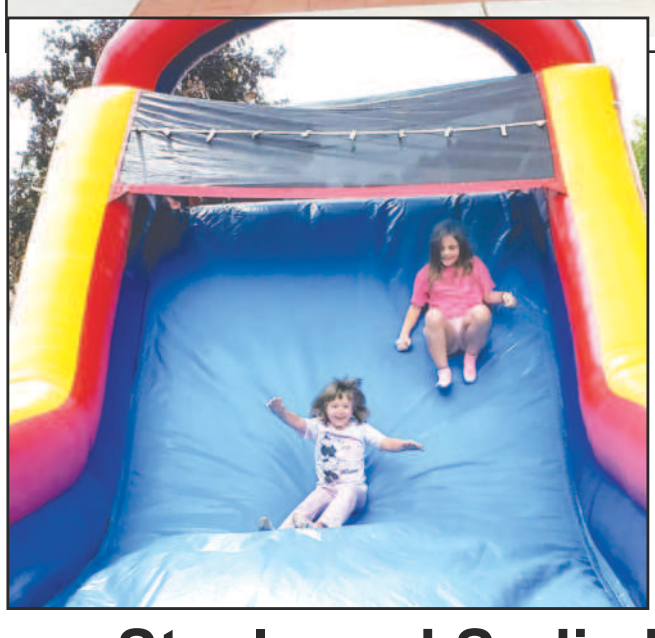
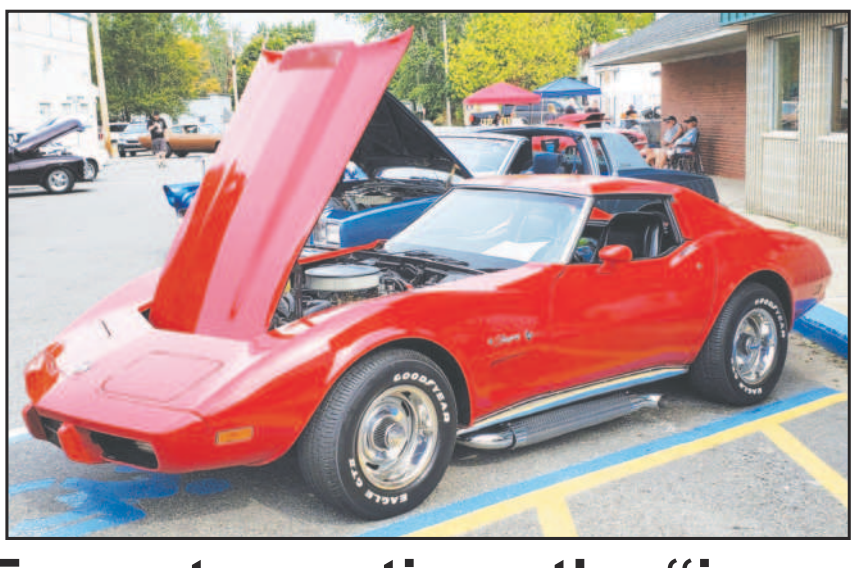
Oktoberfest featured car show and live music

Oktoberfest, held in Bloomingdale's Augustus Haven Park, Sept. 19-21, saw many people attend the Friday night through Sunday morning event. Some of the many activities and events on Saturday included the Galvan Industries Car Show, which saw Chris Serdel capture the People's Choice award with his 1976 Corvette Stingray. Other events included face painting, live music by the Black River Band and an arts and craft show.

Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod





Steele and Sadie Evans to continue the "incredibly orange tradition," as Evans Acres Family Farm

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com.

In a recent social media post, a great-nephew of Gene (The Pumpkin Man) Rhodes, who passed away last December, announced that he and his wife had purchased the family farm that Gene operated from 1957 to 2024.

Steele and Sadie Evans, Gene's great-nephew and niece-in-law, purchased the farm which has been in the family since 1885.

"We are honored to be able to continue the incredibly orange tradition Gene poured his life into," said the post.

It continued, "After much prayer and reflection, we have decided to take on a new name for the business, Evans Acres Family Farm. We chose a new name because we have plans for the future - to see the farm grow, to welcome animals back to the land, and restore it as a true family farm once again."

It further stated, "While the name on the mailbox may be changing, the name on the barn doors is not. This farm holds so many memories for our family and for the community, and we can't wait to welcome you back."

The Evans said that the farm will not open to the public this fall, citing not enough time and "to simply throw something together." It continued, "Gene would not approve of that, and we won't either."

The post concluded, "Thank you for your patience, your support and your prayers as we prepare for this next chapter. We cannot wait to share all that's ahead with all of you along the way."

Myron Eugene Rhodes, more commonly known as "Gene the Pumpkin Man" to area residents, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024.

Rhodes, 88, of Kalamazoo, was born Feb. 11, 1936, in Kalamazoo, the son of Ralph and Evelyn (Harris) Rhodes. He was a 1954 graduate of Mattawan High School.

According to his obituary, Rhodes was a clerk for 10 years at the Kalamazoo Sanitarium and a driver and custodian for 27 years at the Michigan Rehabilitation Center for the Blind.

In 1957, Myron Eugene was known as "Gene the Pumpkin Man," where he operated a pumpkin farm on the family's centennial homestead.

Gene was a longtime member of the West Oshtemo Grange 1630, where he served as president for 22 years. He was also a member of the Kalamazoo City Farm Bureau, the Almena Historical Society, Michigan Centennial Farm Association, and the Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame. He loved pumpkins, farming, and listening to music.

Steele and Sadie Evans will continue the "incredibly orange tradition," as Evans Acres Family Farm

Courtesy photo/ Evans Acres Family Farm

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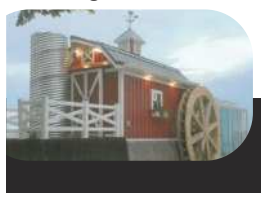
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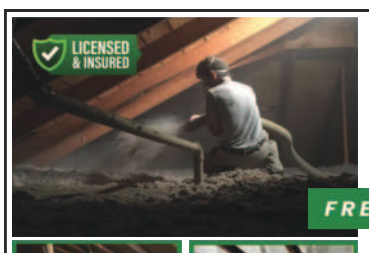

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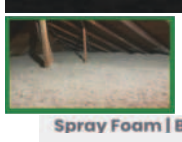

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2ND FRONT PAGE

Criminal charges dismissed against Paw Paw woman

When District Court Judge Kristen D. Simmons recently dismissed criminal charges against 15 Republican alternate electors, the decision ended more than two years of legal turmoil that included a Paw Paw woman among those 15 alternate electors, according to an announcement from the Van Buren County Republicans.

Among those defendants was Rose Rook of Paw Paw, whose case drew intense attention both locally and statewide.

Judge Simmons ruled that prosecutors failed to establish a core element of the case: intent to commit fraud. "This is a fraud case, and (you) have to prove intent," Simmons said in her decision. She noted the defendants sincerely believed they were acting lawfully in the wake of the disputed 2020 presidential election results.

That ruling aligns with earlier statements from Attorney General Dana Nessel, who acknowledged at a political event that the alternate electors were "brainwashed" and believed they were doing the right thing.

Even before the state charges, federal prosecutors declined to pursue the case, according to the announcement. Their reasoning was straightforward: the alternate documents at issue did not carry the Michigan state seal, the governor's signature, or falsified signatures. Without those elements, the so-called certificate was not legally a certificate at all - and therefore could not qualify as forgery, according to the announcement.

Adding to the legal hurdles, the Attorney General never charged the lawyers who advised the electors, including MIGOP and Trump campaign counsel. That gap underscored the principle of advice of counsel, which protects individuals who act under the direction of licensed attorneys.

For Judge Simmons, testimony showed the defendants were told their actions were proper, further weakening claims of criminal intent.

For many defendants, the dismissal closed a long and difficult ordeal that weighed heavily on their health and families. Sadly, one elector, John Haggard, passed away on Sept. 10, just a day after Judge Simmons' ruling, underscoring the toll of the prolonged case. Others also faced serious health issues brought on by the stress of the pre-trial process, according to the announcement.

Rook faced the scrutiny of political prosecution in her own community. Friends and neighbors say the process brought unwanted division and pressure, even as she maintained that her role was rooted in civic duty. For many, the legal ordeal has been more than a political fight - it has been a personal trial endured in small towns, according to the announcement.

Critics argue the prosecution exemplified political lawfare - using the justice system to score partisan points – while supporters insist the charges reflected accountability, according to the announcement.

According to the Van Buren County Republicans, without a forged certificate, without proven criminal intent, and with the protections of legal counsel, the electors could not be sent to trial.

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Items from the late Chief of Police George Fadel donated to county museum

The late George Fadel, retired Village of Paw Paw Police Chief

Police Items from the late George Fadel, Village of Paw Paw Chief of Police

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

PAW PAW - Several police items used by the late George Fadel, retired Paw Paw Chief of Police, have been donated to the Van Buren County Museum.

Tyler Sleep, a Van Buren County Museum volunteer, said the items were received last month and will be on display at the museum in the spring of 2026.

"What an honor to have received these items to add with other items," said Sleep.

George Edward Fadel, III, 89, of Paw Paw, passed away on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at his home in Paw Paw. He was born Dec. 27, 1935, in Chicago, Illinois, the son of George Edward Fadel, Jr., and Adeline Ann (Jansen) Fadel.

Fadel was a police officer for the Village of Paw Paw for 30 years and spent 28 of those years as the Chief of Police. He also taught Adult Education and High-Risk children's programs for over 20 years in Paw Paw. Fadel lived on Ackley Lake for 54 years.

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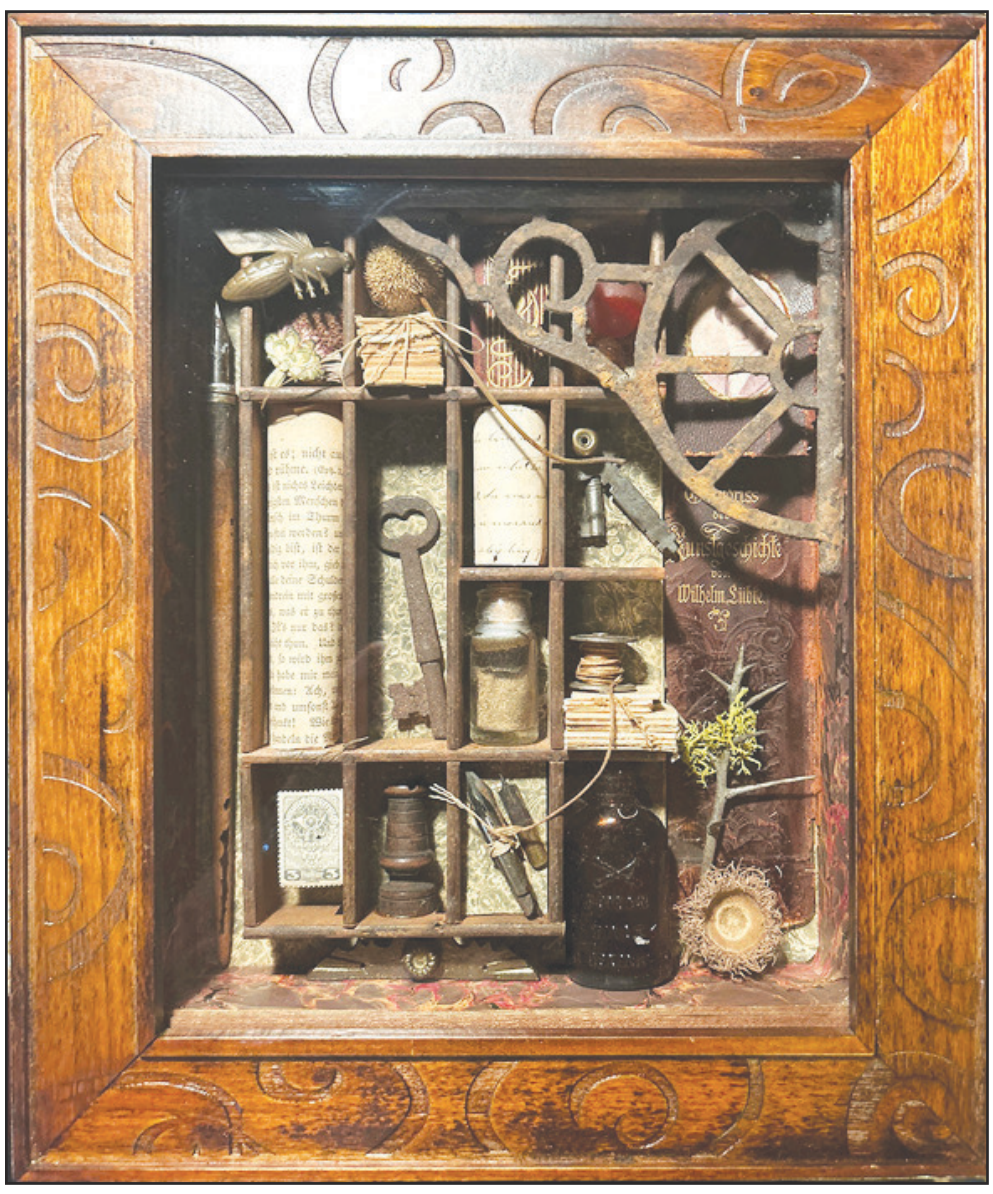
The Ghosts that Linger: New Show at South Haven Center for the Arts

Mercedes Ebbers Art

Kyle Anderson SEPT 2025



Lorma Freestone Art

Jason Stout ART SEPT 2025

By James Windell

What are the ghosts that linger?

That is the question you might very well ask when you come to the next show at the South Haven Center for the Arts.

Beginning on Saturday, September 27, 2025, "The Ghosts that Linger" is the title of the juried show which brings together 38 pieces of art from artists throughout the country.

Shaina Kasztelan, a multidisciplinary artist based in Detroit, Michigan, curated this show. And she had something particular in mind when she thought about the kind of show she wanted.

"The Ghosts That Linger is an exhibition that explores how objects and places become repositories of memory and meaning," Kasztelan says. "The works on view highlight the emotional weight we attach to things kept, discarded, or found again, as well as places we move through, revisit, or leave behind. By working with repurposed materials or referencing familiar environments and personal histories, the artists reflect on the ways nostalgia, sentimentality, and memory shape our sense of identity."

Kerry Hagy, Executive Director of the South Haven Center for the Arts, says that the 38 pieces that will be in the show will include landscapes, still lifes, and art made from repurposed materials. "This is a really interesting show," Hagy says, "because some pieces evoke images that stick with us when they are no longer useful."

What also makes the show fascinating, Hagy notes, is that it is a national show. That is, Hagy explains, "The show is national because we have artists shipping their work from all over the country." She says that the work of artists from Chicago, Florida, Pennsylvania, Indiana, New York, Idaho and Los Angeles will be featured in the exhibition.

In Kasztelan's own work, which includes painting, sculpture, collage, and installation, she creates psychedelic dreamscapes using kitsch commodities that shuffle between curated control and chaotic mess. She received a BFA from the College for Creative Studies in 2012 and an MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art in 2024. In addition to her formal education, Kasztelan has worked as a muralist, built theater sets, worked as a prop maker, and spent years building floats for America's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Her work has been exhibited in many places including The Detroit Institute of Arts, the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (Detroit, MI), and the University of Michigan Institute for the Humanities in Ann Arbor.

"The Ghosts that Linger" will begin with an opening reception on Friday, September 26, from, 5:00 to 7:00 pm. It will continue until November 8, 2025. Gallery hours at the South Haven Center for the Arts, 600 Phoenix Street, South Haven, are Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm; and Thursdays from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. All exhibitions are free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.southhavenarts.org

Bike, Buggy & Quad Show arrives in Pullman

By Gari Voss

ReelPlay and Burton J. Canfield have joined to host the Gas It & Show It! Bike, Buggy, and Quad Show in Pullman, MI on Sunday, September 28, 2025, from 1-5pm. Everyone with a motorized vehicle is invited to join the family event at ReelPlay, 5581 109Th Ave., Pullman, MI,

The hosts state, "Bring your ride, shine it up, and show it off! Whether you roll on two wheels, four, or somewhere in between, this is your day to flex your pride and joy."

There will be a $10 registration for each vehicle, but admission is free for all spectators.

Awards will be given to the Best in Show with category prizes for standout rides. In addition, fun door prizes will be offered throughout the day. So, come and take home the trophy and bragging rights.

ReelPlay is a family-friendly atmosphere. There will be food and drinks offered onsite plus music and fun all afternoon for the show. Inside, ReelPlay will continue to offer the only Sober Bar in Allegan County with tons of games - arcade, pool, air hockey, board games, and more.

On Sunday, September 28th, riders are invited to "Rev it up, tell your crew, and let's pack the lot with horsepower and style!"

For additional information about Gas It & Show It!, Bike, Buggy & Quad Show contact Daniel at (269) 264-8769 or reelplaycenter@gmail.com.

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Van Buren County Stand Down to be held Oct. 10

DECATUR - A Van Buren County Stand Down will be held Friday, Oct. 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Decatur VFW, 560 N. Phelps St., Decatur.

A variety of veterans Stand Down services will be available including health care for homeless veterans, VA Nutrition Services, Buddy to Buddy, surplus items, Post 9/11 services, MVAA, Trust Fund, Soldiers & Sailors, West MI Veterans, Vocational Rehabilitation, membership to American Legion, supportive services for veterans' families, and other VA services.

Veterans are asked to bring a government issued photo ID. They are also encouraged to bring DD214 or VA ID.

If assistance is needed to obtain a copy of the individual's DD 214, contact the Van Buren Veterans Affairs office at (269) 270-4822.

For more information about the event, contact Melanie Hoioker at (269) 655-9008 or e-mail at: hookerva1@live.com

National POW/MIA Recognition Day held Friday, Sept. 19, Lawrence man among those MIA

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

National POW/MIA Recognition Day was marked Friday, Sept. 19. As of January, there were 71,986 missing Americans from World War II, 7,446 from the Korean War, 1,544 from Vietnam, 126 from the Cold War, two from Operation Desert Storm and three from the Iraq War.

Army Cpl. Donald McGowan, Jr., of Lawrence, is listed as missing in action (MIA), May 25, 1951, during the Korean War.

On May 25, elements of the 187th Regimental Combat Team (RCT) were assigned to secure a bridgehead on the Soyang River in South Korea. The RCT, bolstered by two companies of tanks, launched a counterattack against Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) that had taken control of the river's northern shore. Despite fierce enemy resistance, the 187th RCT successfully dislodged the CCF, and then began a cautious push northward to locate and destroy other enemy forces. The 187th RCT was still engaged with CCF troops by the end of the day and suffered several casualties over the course of the fighting.

Don McGowan, Jr. (MIA)

Cpl. McGowan, Jr., was a member of the Service Company, 187th Regimental Combat Team. He took part in the fighting on May 25 and was captured by the enemy at some point during that day. He joined a group of prisoners who were marched north into North Korean territory. Corporal McGowan, Jr., died of malnutrition and illness in June 1951, after his group arrived at the Suan Mining Camp. His remains have not been recovered, and he was not identified among remains returned to U.S. custody after the war.

Cpl. McGowan, Jr., is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. His name is also inscribed on the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, DC, which was updated in 2022 to include the names of the fallen.

Donald McGowan (MIA) Medals and Purple Heart

On Aug. 25, 2016, Cpl. McGowan, Jr., received the Purple Heart for wounds that he received in action resulting in his death on June 30, 1951, while a prisoner of war in Korea.

On Sept. 10, 2001, Cpl. McGowan's mother, Margaret McGowan, received a minted Republic of Korea Service Medal and certificate in recognition of her son's service in the Korean War. The service award was designed and issued by the Republic of Korea in appreciation for the service and sacrifice of nearly two million Americans during that war. As the nation commemorated the 50th anniversary at that time, the letter said, "It is especially appropriate that those who remain unaccounted for also have their sacrifices recognized."

In May of 2000, then Republic of Korea Defense Minister, Song Tae Cho, informed the U.S. Secretary of Defense his government would provide the Republic of Korea War Service Medal to eligible U.S. veterans of that conflict or their surviving next of kin.

"On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Korean War," Cho wrote, "the Republic of Korea government decided to issue Republic of Korea War Service Medal to pay tribute to the Korean War veterans for their historic endeavors to preserve the freedom of the Republic of Korea and the free world."

The family of Cpl. McGowan, Jr., donated his American flag, medals, including the Purple Heart, and an Amry cap that he wore to the Van Buren County Veterans Services, 116 E. Michigan Ave., and is on display at the office. For more information, contact the office at (269) 657-8200, ext. 1612, 1613 or 1614.

The former Defense POW Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) merged with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in 2015, located on Hickam Air Base in Hawaii.

According to Joe D. Haines, a former Navy doctor, who published an article, "Honoring America's Missing" in the September 2025 issue of The American Legion Magazine, DPAA operates 18 recovery teams that use standard field-archeology methods to evacuate a site, sectioning it into 4-by-4-meter grids. Each ounce of soil removed from each grid is sifted through quarter-inch wire screens.

Identification is made at the Central Identification Lab, according to Haines, the largest of its kind in the world.

When a case is completed, it is then forwarded to a mortuary affairs office, and the family is notified. Haines said an arrival ceremony with a flag draped transfer case is held in Hawaii with joint services honor guard and senior officers. The recovered service member is buried with full military honors.

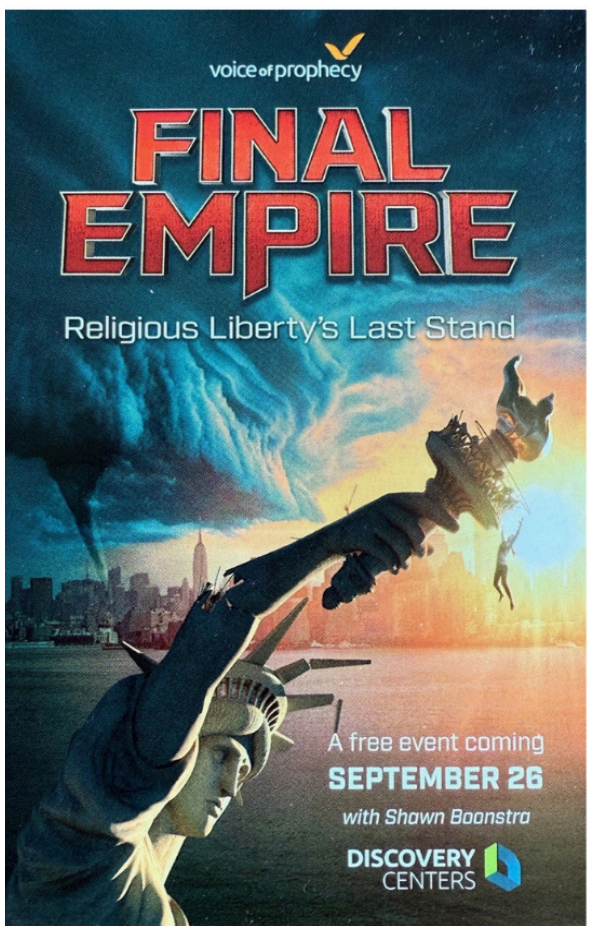
St. Julian announces acquisition of MichiGrain

St. Julian Winery & Distillery, Michigan's oldest craft distillery, as well as the state's largest and longest-operating winery, announces the strategic acquisition of MichiGrain, a leading innovator in craft neutral grain spirits. This move marks a significant step forward in expanding St. Julian's craft spirits portfolio and manufacturing capabilities.

All MichiGrain operations will be moved and integrated into St. Julian's state-of-the-art campus in Paw Paw. A new, dedicated space for premium spirit production will house cutting-edge equipment designed to elevate quality, efficiency, and versatility in distillation.

This expansion not only addresses the rising demand for handcrafted spirits but also positions St. Julian to explore new retail and wholesale opportunities. The increased capacity and technological advancements will facilitate collaborations with local bars, restaurants, and retailers eager to serve Michigan-made, premium spirits. Furthermore, this growth supports boutique distilleries and emerging brands seeking high-quality bulk spirits tailored to their needs.

"Our investment in advanced distillation technology and a dedicated production environment reflects our unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, and community," said Apollo Braganini II, President of St. Julian Winery & Distillery. "By joining forces with MichiGrain, we are positioning ourselves to lead Michigan's craft spirits industry into a new era of growth, creativity, and quality."



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VIEWPOINT

Erika Kirk's Greatest Act of Courage — Forgiving the Unforgivable

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX ■ PUBLISHER ■

When tragedy strikes, our instincts often turn toward anger, resentment, and the pursuit of vengeance. That is human nature. Yet, every so often, someone rises above those instincts and shows us a higher way — a path of grace that most of us cannot even imagine taking. Yesterday, Erika Kirk did exactly that.

Her husband's life was taken in an act of senseless violence. An assassin's cruelty left her with a wound so deep that many would carry it with bitterness for the rest of their days. For Erika, no one would have questioned such a response. To lose the person you love most to violence is a cruelty that defies comprehension. But instead of clinging to anger, Erika made a choice that was as astonishing as it was brave: she forgave her husband's killer.

As she walked on that stage in front of 60,000 people and millions more watching on television there to memorialize Charlie Kirk, including President Trump and Vice-President Vance, with her eyes full of tears, she stepped up to the bullet-proof glass podium and delivered one of the most powerful speeches I have ever heard.

I like many expected words of revenge, but instead we heard words of forgiveness.

Forgiveness is often spoken about in sermons and inspirational speeches, but rarely is it lived out in such a raw and public way. The world admires forgiveness in theory, yet when we are asked to practice it ourselves, especially in matters so grave, it feels nearly impossible. Erika showed us yesterday that it is not only possible, but powerful.

Her act of forgiveness was not about excusing the crime. It was not a dismissal of justice, nor was it a denial of her grief. Rather, it was a declaration that she would not let hatred define her future. By forgiving the one who shattered her life, Erika reclaimed her power. She chose not to live chained to bitterness but to walk forward with strength and peace. That decision — perhaps the hardest any of us could ever make — is the very essence of courage.

Forgiveness on this scale is not weakness. It is, in truth, one of the greatest strengths a human being can possess. Anyone can lash out in anger; anyone can demand vengeance. But to release anger, to let go of hatred, and to speak words of forgiveness in the wake of devastation — that requires a depth of character that is both rare and inspiring.

The significance of her decision is not limited to her own healing. By choosing forgiveness, Erika has extended hope to others who are carrying their own burdens of loss and resentment. She has shown that forgiveness is not only possible in unimaginable circumstances, but also life-giving. Her act stands as a quiet challenge to the rest of us: if she can forgive something so monumental, what grudges are we holding that suddenly seem smaller by comparison?

In a society that often glorifies retaliation and revenge, Erika's choice is countercultural. It is also deeply necessary. We live in a world where anger seems to dominate our public life, from political discourse to personal disputes. Erika has reminded us that there is another way of grace, mercy, and, above all, courage.

Maybe, just maybe, her speech and forgiveness will hit home to the next person so filled with rage they feel they need to commit murder or assassinate a political figure. Maybe as a nation we will realize forgiveness is a better trait than revenge. Maybe needless killings will stop. Maybe our leaders won't be so divided.

Her words will not erase her pain. They will not bring her husband back. The grief will remain, as it always does after such loss. But her forgiveness ensures that grief will not harden into hatred. It ensures that the rest of her life, though scarred, will not be consumed by bitterness. That is a gift she has given herself, and it is also a gift she has given us all.

Erika Kirk's decision to forgive the unforgivable is one of the most courageous acts we will witness in our lifetime. It was not the size of the crowd that mattered yesterday, but the size of her heart. And in that heart, we saw a glimpse of a strength far greater than anger — the strength to forgive.

Driver falls asleep, injured, when vehicle hits tree

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Uniform Response handled a PIA (personal injury accident) in Keeler Township. Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott reported the driver fell asleep, crossed the centerline, left the roadway, and hit a tree. The single occupant driver was taken to the hospital due to their injuries.

Uniform Response handled a domestic assault in the City of Hartford. After investigating the incident, the suspect/aggressor was lodged for it.

"The suspect also resisted arrest and was charged with that as well," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Uniform Response followed up on a trespassing/squatting incident in Porter Township that I had handled earlier in the day. An unknown subject put up a tent on the Kinney Waterfowl Reserve and appeared to be living out of it. No one was there when I checked it, so a note was left on the tent by a Porter Township Board member to remove it as they are not allowed to camp/live on township property. Later in the evening, a deputy checked on the tent and it was removed," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response had a pursuit that started in Columbia Township and ended in Pine Grove Township. The suspect was placed in custody for the incident. The Kalamazoo resident was also found to have three warrants for his arrest out of Kalamazoo, one felony warrant for drugs and two misdemeanor warrants. He will now be facing felony charges in both counties, according to Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response had a traffic stop in Columbia Township that ended with the driver being arrested for possession of oxycodone which he wasn't prescribed.

"Our Narcotics Unit conducted an investigation into illegal drug activity in Almena Township. A search warrant was executed at the residence, during which cocaine and methamphetamine were located. The suspect was currently out on bond for possession of more than 1.6 pounds of methamphetamine with intent to deliver. The suspect was lodged and now facing more felony drug charges," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Our School Resource Deputy handled an assault complaint at Mattawan Schools for a 15-year-old punching a counselor in the face. Charges are being submitted for the incident," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a domestic assault and conditional bond violation in Bloomingdale Township. The suspect was out on bond with conditions that he violated and committed an assault. He was lodged for the two charges.

Uniform Response handled a domestic assault involving two brothers fighting in Columbia Township. "The brother that was the aggressor and started the fight was lodged for the incident," said Sheriff Abbott.

OBITUARIES

Inez Lorraine (Good) Bitely

Inez Lorraine (Good) Bitely, 94, of Paw Paw, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025, at White Oaks Assisted Living, Lawton. She was born Nov. 10, 1930, in a little house north of Lawton, Michigan, the daughter of Lawrence Good and Irene (Silvernail) Good.

When Inez was six years old, she began her education at the Durkee District, a one-room school with grades first through sixth. From there, she attended Lawton Middle and High School. Inez went to Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Western Michigan University and graduated from Nazareth College with a major in nursing and a minor in psychology. She was a member of the Sigma Theta Tau sorority.

Inez began working at Lake View Community Hospital, Paw Paw, as a nurse. After working as a nurse for many years, she taught nursing at Southwestern Michigan College for 26 years. She also spent 36 years with the Red Cross as a disaster nurse.

Inez was a talented poetry writer and had published three poetry books, "Kindlewood I, II, and III." She also was a gifted quilter and gardener. Inez enjoyed traveling, reading, writing and spending time with her family.

She was a devout Christian and a longtime member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Lawton. She spent countless hours volunteering and helping with church services and events. She was a member of St. Paul's Widow's Group and East Van Buren County Seniors.

On June 27, 1948, she married Donald Bitely, who preceded her in passing in 2003. After Don's death, Inez lived at Miller Court, Paw Paw, until 2023, when she moved to White Oaks, Lawton.

She is survived by her four sons, Nathan (Deb), Fred (Caroline), Conrad (Kim) and James (Leslie); eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Inez was preceded in passing by her parents; husband, Don; and siblings, Lawrence, Al, Joseph, Betty and Beatrice.

In accordance with Inez's wishes, cremation has taken place. Family and friends are invited to celebrate her life on Saturday, Oct. 4, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 63855 M-40 Highway, Lawton. A visitation will be held from 11 a.m. to noon with a memorial service beginning at noon with Pastor Ashlei Horn and Pastor Patti Haas officiating. There will be a luncheon following services at the church. Inez will be laid to rest at Oak Grove Cemetery, Lawton.

Memorial contributions in memory of Inez may be directed to St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 63855 M-40 Highway, Lawton, MI, 49065, or to Transitions Hospice, 555 W. Crosstown Parkway, Suite #100, Kalamazoo, MI, 49008.

Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at: adamspawpaw.com

Barbara Marie Morrison

Barbara Marie Morrison, 80, of Paw Paw, passed away peacefully on Tuesday Sept. 16, 2025, at Maple Lake Assisted Living, Paw Paw, after a long battle with Alzheimer's. She was born Nov. 10, 1944, in Hillsdale, Michigan, the daughter of Lloyd G. Morrison and Shirley A. (Muffitt) Morrison.

Barbara received her bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University and later went back for her master's degree at Western Michigan University. She taught at Paw Paw Public Schools for 37 years as an elementary teacher. Although Barbara never had any children of her own, she considered every student she ever taught her children and cared for them like her own. She kept in touch with many of her former students and they even helped take care of her when her health declined.

Barbara loved to read and was a frequent customer at the Paw Paw District Library. They always put their new books on hold because they knew Barbara would want to read them! She also was an avid gardener and grew many gorgeous gardens, even receiving an award from the Village of Paw Paw for the best-looking garden.

Barbara will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. Her kind and generous spirit will never be forgotten.

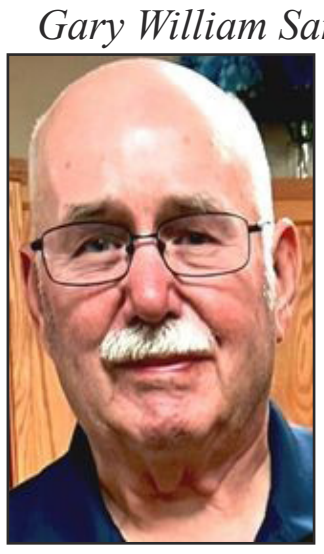
She is survived by her brothers, Dennis (Patricia) Morrison and Steve (Bunee) Morrison; nieces and nephews, Christina (Leonard) Klok, Nika (Zevi) Bareket, Ron (Dava) Morrison and Avi Kayne; great nieces and nephews, Taylor Morrison, Alex Morrison, Maoz Bareket, Ori Bareket, Maria Morrison, and Jessica Klok.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents.

Per Barbaras wishes, cremation will take place. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at: adamspawpaw.com

Gary William Sampsell



Gary William Sampsell, 79, of Lawton, MI, passed away peacefully on Sept. 15, 2025. He was born in Paw Paw, MI, on Jan. 16, 1946, to Warren and Dorothy Sampsell.

Gary was a devoted member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Lawton, and an active part of the Lawton community. He served on the Lawton Heritage Museum Board, was a proud member of the Lawton Lions Club where he received the Melvin Jones Award and volunteered at the Lakeview Community Thrift Store, Paw Paw. Wherever Barbara volunteered, Gary was by her side, lending his hands and his heart. His service extended beyond his community, as he proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Vietnam War.

After 37 years with General Motors, Gary retired. Only to begin another career with the Van Buren Intermediate School District, Lawrence, where he worked for seven more years. But Gary never really retired because his greatest work was always in serving others.

Gary was also deeply passionate about photography. For years, he captured memories for Lawton Community Schools, his alma mater, producing the infamous "Senior Video" for many graduating classes and ensuring every student was included. He also filmed countless weddings, preserving joyful moments for families across the community.

He was a man of simple pleasures and unique loves: cherry pie, the Fergie, his cell phone, the color red, the Checkmate, radios, James Bond, the Maize n' Blue, and of course, the Detroit Lions and Tigers. But above all, he loved his Barbara.

On October 29, 1966, Gary married his high school sweetheart, Barbara Sanborn. Together, they shared 58 wonderful years, filled with love, laughter, and countless gatherings with family and friends at their cherished Bankson Lake home.

Gary and Barbara raised three children, Michael (Paula) Sampsell, Amy (Jeremy) Drobeck, and Sarah (Travis) Mason. He was a proud and loving grandfather to Kayla, Jeremy, Hailey, Shaun, Cora, and Davis, five step-grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Above all, Gary was devoted to his family.

To know Gary was to know someone who always showed up, who always cared, who always made you feel included. His life was a steady reminder that true greatness lies not in what we keep for ourselves, but in what we give away to others.

He is survived by his brother, Ronald (Carol) Sampsell; brothers-in-law, Phil Sanborn, Jim (Kathy) Sanborn, and David (Connie) Sanborn.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Ken; and his in-laws, Myron and Maxine Sanborn.

Memorial contributions may be directed to St. Paul's United Methodist Church or the Lawton Lions Club. Family and friends are invited to gather on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 10 a.m. to noon at The Old Winery (Lawton Community Center), 646 N. Nursery St., Lawton, MI. A memorial service will begin at noon. with Pastors Ashlei Horn and Patti Haas officiating. A luncheon will follow.

Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at: adamspawpaw.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

STICKS AND STONES

Dear Editor:

Charlie Kirk was me, only WAY better: Christian, conservative, patriot, white guy. When the progressive diversity snake oil salesmen pushed their toxic tonic, Charlie and I should have had to take triple doses to treat our many presumed ills.

The deluded and cowardly assassin who shot Charlie in the neck was drinking the toxic tonic, and despite his being, as reported, a fairly intelligent kid, the brew that intoxicated him was more than snake oil, it was a poison pushed by liars and communists whose intent was and is to create hit men to take out decent men like Charlie. And to foster enough chaos to foment revolution. That kid apparently believed these lies:

Christians are intolerant bigots and haters,

Conservatives are fascists, (ironically, because the left has co-opted our discourse, if anyone opposes the anarchist Antifa rioters, that makes him a fascist, too)

Patriots are Nazis or white supremacists,

Whites are irreversibly infected with institutional racism,

Guys are sexists suffering from toxic masculinity,

Cops and ICE agents are the Gestapo,

Trump is Hitler,

Anyone who questions men in women's locker rooms or sports is a transphobe,

Anyone who supports Israel's right to exist is an Islamophobe,

Anyone who calls abortion the murder of an innocent human being is a dupe,

If you believe that a voter should have an ID card, you are an enemy of democracy, and

Get with it if you believe that our military should be a meritocracy like the NBA.

Joseph Goebbels, a propagandist and a REAL Nazi, predicted that if a lie is told often enough, the folks will believe it to be the truth. The kid who shot Charlie drank that Kool Aid, and as a result a wonderful young man, father, husband and American who worked nonviolently to confront evil with the TRUTH in peaceful, good faith debate is gone.

The children's chant ends "…and words will never hurt me." Ask Erika Kirk and her two fatherless children if that is true……..

Jack Bley
Paw Paw

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Bangor athlete makes college commitment

Isabelle Horvath will be a senior for Bangor softball next spring.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BANGOR — Isabelle Horvath is currently having a strong season for Bangor's volleyball team.

But she recently focused in on her college softball career by announcing she would be playing for Kalamazoo College.

She is in her senior season with Bangor.

Horvath said she likes the academic opportunities at Bangor.

"The coach is super nice," she said. "I connected with everyone there."

Next spring will be Horvath's fourth varsity season at Bangor.

"Last year we won our district which was one of our biggest goals," Horvath, a pitcher, said. "I got my 500th, 600th and 700th strikeout."

Horvath was close to 500 strikeouts coming into the 2025 season. She is now at 789. She had 341 Ks last season.

The key in her strikeout success "was a lot of hard work during the offseason and on the weekends," Horvath said. "I spent a lot of time in building my craft and it was trusting myself and my catcher."

Horvath was first-team all-conference her first three varsity seasons. She was all-district as a sophomore and was all-district, all-region and honorable mention all-state as a junior.

Bangor was district champs last season.

Horvath bats No. 3 for Bangor. She batted a little more than .400 but she will focus on pitching at Kalamazoo College.

Horvath has played softball since she was nine and said she decided on her own she wanted to be a pitcher.

The Bangor volleyball season "is going good so far," Horvath said. "We've only lost one game so far out of seven."

Horvath starts at libero and has been in that spot since ever high school year.

The key to being an effective libero, Horvath said is "reading the hitters and trusting your teammates."

She also serves for Bangor.

"I think we'll be strong this year," she said. "As long as we comunicate, I think we'll be fine."

Horvath has also been honorable mention all-conference in volleyball and basketball. She's on a fall travel ball team based out of Edwardsburg.

Former Paw Paw standout looks ahead

Jacob Major was an honorable mention all-state baseball player at Paw Paw.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Former Paw Paw athlete Jacob Major graduated from Paw Paw in 2024 and this past spring played one year of baseball at Lake Michigan College.

"I decided recently to pursue coaching," he said.

Major played most of the year with Lake Michigan. He was in 20 of the 40 games the Benton Harbor school played.

He was a catcher and had some major throwouts.

"There were some good moments," Major said. "It was kind of a streaky season overall, nothing to stick out. It was season filled that when everything was going right, it was going right. And if it wasn't, it wasn't.

"I had a few big defensive plays against Lansing and Glen Oaks. I had some caught stealing moments defensively."

Major added "injuries catch up with you at some point. I want to stay in the game one way and another. It was time to step away from playing and continue to stay with the sport."

Major will keep attending school at Lake Michigan.

"I'm between offers kind of deciding what's next for me as far as baseball goes," he said.

Major was honorable mention all-state for baseball as a senior and also all-region for soccer as a junior and senior.

Paw Paw tennis places fourth at Allegan

By John Raffel
Correspondent

The Paw Paw Tennis Team traveled to Allegan on Saturday to take part in the 2025 Tiger Invitational with 5 of the top 10 teams in D4 and a top D3 teams as well.

"It was a great day of tennis with wonderful matches all around," coach Matt Balega said. "The Red Wolves fought hard and finished in 4th place amongst some great competition.

Individual Results for Paw Paw

1st Singles Terrance Fisher - 6th Place

2nd Singles Jacob Ameling (Sub) - 7th Place

3rd Singles Zach Mahan - 6th Place

4th Singles - Braden Schultz - 7th Place

1st Doubles - Anderson Farnquist/Issac Geffre - 3rd Place

2nd Doubles - Simon Geffre/Ethan Groner - 1st Place

3rd Doubles - Bryn Carlsen/ Brevyn Wisneski - 3rd Place

4th Doubles - Jude Webster/ Connor Esman - 5th Place

On Wednesday, the Red Wolves played conference opponent Otsego. Both teams were at the top of the league and it was a good show down for the Red Wolves. Paw Paw took the doubles in a clean sweep, 4th Singles Braden Schultz won yet another come from behind 3rd set victory and 1st Singles Terrance Fisher picked played a clean match for a straight sets victory. The Red Wolves move to 4-0-1 win the Wolverine Conference tied for 1st with Vicksburg and 8-1-2 overall.

Otsego - 2, Paw Paw - 6, Singles: No. 1 - Terrance Fisher, Paw Paw def. Maddox Haak, Otsego, 6-2 , 6-4 , -; No. 2 - Connor Taylor, Otsego def. Eric Fitchpatrick, Paw Paw, 3-6 , 6-4 , 6-4 ; No. 3 - Carson Wiser, Otsego def. Zach Mahan, Paw Paw, 6-2 , 6-3 , -; No. 4 - Braden Schultz, Paw Paw def. Matthew Jackson, Otsego, 5-7 , 6-4 , 6-2 ; Doubles: No. 1 - Isaac Geffre, Paw Paw - Anderson Farnquist, Paw Paw def. Dillon Campbell, Otsego - Owen Santman, Otsego, 6-2 , 6-0 , -; No. 2 - Simon Geffre, Paw Paw - Ethan Groner, Paw Paw def. Jacob Austin, Otsego - Wyatt Dennis, Otsego, 6-4 , 6-0 , -; No. 3 - Bryn Carlsen, Paw Paw - Brevyn Wisenski, Paw Paw def. Simon Pobocik, Otsego - Sean Ernstes, Otsego, 5-7 , 6-2 , 6-2 ; No. 4 - Jude Webster, Paw Paw - Connor Esman, Paw Paw def. Alan Meyer, Otsego - Trey Brown, Otsego, 6-1 , 6-4 , -;

Gobles runners fourth at PW

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — After an early morning and long drive, the Gobles Tiger's cross country teams competed in the Pewamo-Westphalia Invitational last weekend. The teams are entering the championship meet portion of the season and look to keep moving up in the rankings. The Gobles Girls finished 4th and the Boys finished 8th among the 12 schools competing. There were many personal and season records set on Saturday.

The ladies competed with toughness and improved many of their times. Taylor Cooley 27:33.3 (PR), Alyssa Sparks 24:38.5 (PR), Addison Tomsic 24:02.6 (SR), Madison Cooley 22:29.4, Ava DeYoung 21:32.0 (SR), Lauren Shaffer 19:33.4 (PR), Libby Smith 18:07.0 (PR and new Gobles CC Record). Libby (1st), Lauren (8th), and Ava (26th) all earned medals for their top 30 finishes.

The gentlemen competed at a level they haven't yet reached this year and it was amazing. Easton Piper 21:49.5, Titus Sager 21:21.9, Cole Cannon 19:32.7 (SR), David Sager 19:19.1, Jaxon Bunce 18:48.5 (PR), Levi Collins 18:37.7 (PR), Cole Ringel 18:11.6 (PR), and Fletcher Amos 17:52.1 (PR).

Constantine beats South Haven

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven's football teal lost to Constant tine 39-25 on Friday.

Ryan Jenks was 14-of-28 in passing for South Haven for 270 yards and three touchdowns and one interceptions.

Grayson Knox had five catches for 99 y yards and a touchdown. Blake Slazak had three catches for 101 yards and a touchdown.

In tackles, Dominic Guzman had 15 and three for losses. Robert Lucas had 190 with two for losses. Jacob Bosma and Grayson Knox both had 10 tackles.

Bangor soccer

Coach Antonio Robles' Bangor soccer team had a 2-2 tie on Monday against Comstock.

Bangor is 3-7-3 at plays at Bloomingdale on Sept. 24.

Bangor football

Coach Ryan Casey's Bangor football team lost to Grandville Calvin Christian 22-14 on Friday.

Bangor had two rushing touchdowns with one by Aaron Dominguez and the other by Jorge Dominguez. Wyatt Schneider had a rush for a two-point conversion. Landen Valentine added an interception and was the team's leading receiver.

"We were in the game until the end but could not overcome some mistakes. We look forward to fixing those mistakes and heading into Homecoming night with a head of steam," Casey said.

Paw Paw football team wins first game

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw's football team on Thursday defeated Edwardsburg 35-7, winning the first game of the season after a 1-3 start and improving to 1-1 in the Wolverine Conference.

Due to a referee availability issue this week's game was played Thursday night instead of Friday.

Highlights:

•Ben Miller 171 yards on 23 carries for 4 TDs. 5 solo tackles, 7 assist, and 1 TFL.

•Elias Sonneberg 84 yards on 11 carries. 4 solo and 2 assisted tackles.

•Carter Buhl 31 yards on 6 carries for 1 TD.

•Ben Newell 7 solo, 3 assisted tackles and 1 TFL

Austin Ackerman 4 solo and 4 assisted tackles and 2 TFL

•Tyler Kruizenga 4 solo and 5 assisted tackles.

Paw Paw plays at Plainwell on Sept. 26.

Mattawan wins first game

After an 0-3 start, Mattawan won its first football game with a 27-20 verdict over Kalamazoo Loy Norris in overtime on Friday.

Mattawan returns to action on Friday with a game at Portage Central.

Gobles loses first game

Gobles; football to 3-1 on Friday with a 52-6 loss at home on Friday against Martin. Gobles will play at Grand Rapids Sacred Heart on Friday.

Lawton too much for Delton

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON — Lawton improved to 3-1 on Friday with a 42-13 victory over Delton which is 0-4.

Lawton had quarter leads of 21-0, 28-7, and 42-0.

In the first quarter, Lawton had touchdown runs of 34, 24 and 60 yards. They had scoring runs of 17 and 27 yards in the third quarter and a 10-yard scoring pass in the second quarter.

Greyson Burrous had 10 attempts on the ground for 122 yards while Caiden Mitchell had 53 yards on six tries Brady Quick had 50 yards on five carries and Wyatt Streeter had seven carries for 32 yards.

Brody Camp had one pass catch for 32 yards.

Quick was 3-of-4 in passing for 66 yards.

Rocky Karsen had five tackles and two assists. Hyden Marks and Jack Fletcher both had three tackles, one assist, one tackle for loss and one sack.

Lawton had the advantage of 43-41 in total plays, 365-66 in total yards, 80-0 in passing yards, 285-66 in rushing yards, and 16-9 in first downs.

Gobles volleyball team win

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — The Gobles varsity volleyball team won a hard-fought five-set battle against Saugatuck, with scores of 17-25, 25-12, 17-25, 25-22, and 18-16. Kylee led the team with 18 digs and seven aces, while Ellie Wood added three kills. Riley Johnson tallied six kills, and Gabbie DeWater contributed four assists. Adriana Dickerson recorded four digs, and Alana Gonzalez kept the team in the game with six digs. Kimberlee Newland chipped in three kills, Ashlyn Myers added four assists and several digs, and Addy made her presence felt at the net with four blocks.

"It was a great way to come together as a team—showing grit, not giving up, and following through on the 4 C's, Coach Renee Rambadt said.

Paw Paw 14th

PAW PAW — Paw Paw's girl golf team was 14th on Friday at the Goldwater Lady Cardinal Invitational.

Lily Brausch had a 100 for Paw Paw to place 26th while Sydney McNitt shot a 110 for 53rd. Maci Vandrmeeden was 50th with a 109 and Mayeli Paredes-Zavala 73rd with a 119.

Paw Paw soccer team wins 3-0

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — The Paw Paw Red Wolves Soccer team hosted Plainwell in a conference matchup last week and won 3-0.

Plainwell came out on the attack but the defense held strong and the Wolves struck first. The ball was played into the corner to Connor Graves who centered it to Daniel Diaz at the top of the box. Diaz took a touch and ripped a shot of the post and in for a 1-0 lead.

The Wolves continued the attack as the ball played to Grant Sholander who beat a defender before centering to Diaz. Diaz again took a touch and ripped a shot lower right corner past the goalie. Sholander pressed the attack again into the corner before serving a cross to Enzo Tavela who settled the ball and slipped it past the goalie for a 3-0 in the first half.

"Goalie Spencer Peruski made several amazing saves including a point blank kick save to keep a clean sheet in the second half." coach Michael Lounsbury said. "Plainwell pressed the attack in the second half but the defense held strong. Center back captains Isaac Heffner and Alex Groner laid their bodies on the line turning away attack after attack. Any chance that slipped through was quickly snuffed out by Peruski. The Wolves held on for a 3-0 victory."

Lawrence runners have been having success

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWRENCE — The Lawrence High School cross country team opened their South West 10 conference season at Jamboree #1 on Wednesday, September 10th, competing against conference rivals on a challenging course.

The Tigers showcased determination and strong early-season form, with each runner setting a mark to build on for the rest of the year.

Lawrence's runners and times were as follows:

Evan Broyles - 21:07. Rendyn Alfieri - 23:29., Adrain Valario - 24:38. Andyn Offord - 24:39. Colton Anders - 26:40. Walter Waite - 29:26. Aurora McQueen - 27:40. Jara Gomez-Fernandez - 30:17. Landon Marsh-Peek - 20:55

Even Broyles 9th Grade Boys runner said "The more we work to improve the more results will show and I believe we can keep improving race by race."

The Tigers will continue their season at Jamboree #2 in two weeks, Sept. 24 in Comstock, aiming to carry the momentum forward.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

State of Michigan
Probate Court
Van Buren County
Notice to Creditors
Decedent's Estate
Case 2025-1139-DE
Estate of
SABINE CALLAGHAN
Date of Birth October 10,1965
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, **Sabine Callaghan, died June 17,2025 (6/17/2025).**
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Brendan Callaghan** personal representative, or to both the probate court at **212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
9/17/2025
Attorney:
Andrew W. Barnes #P70571
317 Center Street
South Haven, MI 49090
269-287-2010
Personal Representative:
Brendan Callaghan
04437 Beechwood Ln.
South Haven, MI 49090
269-519-8455

State of Michigan
Probate Court
Van Buren County
Notice to Creditors
Decedent's Estate
Case 2025-1135-DE
JUDGE SUSAN DURIAN METZGER
Estate of **MICHAEL FISK HARTMAN**
Date of Birth December 11,1939
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, **Michael Fisk Hartman, died April 22,2025 (4/22/2025).**
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Sharon L. Hartman** personal representative, or to both the probate court at **212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
9/22/2025
Attorney:
John T. McNeil #P17542
239 E. Michigan Ave., #210
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-330-4840
Personal Representative:
Sharon L. Hartman
8600 Sierra Madre Trail
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
269-501-2236

Estate of Helen Ruth Mills
Date of Birth:
February 18, 1933
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The Descendants of, Helen R. Mills, Died on September 2, 2025 (9/2/2025).
Creditors of the Decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to the Personal Representative
Gregory L. Mills
P.O. Box 157
Mendon Mi. 49072
within 4 months after the publication date of this notice.

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Craig Klapp; Atty: Team H; 1st Pub: 9/25/2025; Atty File #: 525780F01; Insurer: FNMA
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on October 23, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Craig Andrew Klapp, as a single man
Original Mortgagee: Honor Credit Union
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None
Date of Mortgage: December 14, 2018
Date of Mortgage Recording: December 21, 2018
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $99,092.94
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of South Haven, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Lots 2 and 3 and the South 8 feet of Lot 1, Block 9, Hartman's Addition to the Village (now City) of South Haven, according to the plat thereof recorded in liber 1 of plats, Page 74, Van Buren County Records
Common street address (if any): 409 Hubbard St, South Haven, MI 49090-1522
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: September 25, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1572669
(09-25)(10-16)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Hernan Hernandez; Atty: Shaheen - Shaheen Jacobs & Ross PC; 1st Pub: 9/25/2025; Atty File #: (N/A); Insurer: (unknown)
FORECLOSURE NOTICE (Van Buren County) NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County (at the front steps of the Courthouse in Paw Paw, Michigan), starting promptly at 1:00 o'clock P.M. on Thursday, October 30, 2025. Default has been made in the terms and conditions of the junior mortgage made by Hernan Hernandez and Maritsa Hernandez, husband and wife, as original mortgagors, to The Huntington National Bank, a national banking association, as original mortgagee, dated June 3, 2019, and recorded on June 17, 2019, at the Van Buren County, Michigan Register of Deeds, in Liber 1685, commencing on Page 534. The amount claimed to be due on this mortgage, on the date of this notice, was $32,489.47. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. The description of the mortgaged premises is all that certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Township of Arlington, in the County of Van Buren and State of Michigan further described as follows: Lot 12, Bangor Heights, according to the recorded plat thereof. ALSO Lot 8, Supervisor's Plat of Zuhl Addition to Bangor, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 4 of Plats, page 40, Van Buren County Records. Commonly known as: 56844 M 43 Hwy., Bangor, MI and 56821 Orchard Ln., Bangor, MI The redemption period shall be Six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be thirty (30) days from the date of such sale or when the time to provide the notice required by MCLA 600.3241a(c) expires, whichever is later or unless the redemption period is shortened in accordance with MCLA 600.3238. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, under MCLA 600.3278, the borrower and mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention Homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Attention Purchasers: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Shaheen, Jacobs & Ross, P.C. is a debt collector attempting to collect this debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Dated: September 15, 2025 The Huntington National Bank, a national banking association Mortgagee SHAHEEN, JACOBS & ROSS, P.C. By: Michael J. Thomas, Esq. Attorneys for Mortgagee 615 Griswold Street, Suite 1425 Detroit, Michigan 48226-3993 (313) 963-1301
(09-25)(10-16)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: ISRAEL OVIEDO; ATTY: TEAM H; 1ST PUB: 9/18/2025; ATTY FILE #: 519955F02; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on October 23, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Israel Oviedo and Juanita Oviedo, his wife Original Mortgagee: Cendant Mortgage Corporation dba PHH Mortgage Services, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Citibank, N.A. as Trustee for Cendant Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2002-B
Date of Mortgage: August 15, 2001
Date of Mortgage Recording: September 10, 2001
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $50,910.29
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Bangor, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 144 of A.H. Morrisons Map of the City of Bangor.
Common street address (if any): 602 Joy St, Bangor, MI 49013-1126
The redemption period shall be 1 year from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: September 18, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1571972
(09-18)(10-09)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Brittany Grzybowski; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 9/11/2025; Atty File #: 24-002140-7; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on October 09, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Brittany Grzybowski and Zack Grzybowski and Melissa Middleton Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: November 16, 2021 Recorded on November 30, 2021, Liber 1729, on Page 795, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Two Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-Two and 29/100 Dollars ($232,232.29) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lots 7 and 8, Block 7, VILLAGE OF GRAND JUNCTION, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 31 of Plats, Page 287, Van Buren County Records. Commonly known as 03761 Columbia St, Grand Junction, MI 49056 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1571724
(09-11)(10-02)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: James A. Brown; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 9/11/2025; Atty File #: 25-011389; Insurer: GNMA
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on OCTOBER 9, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property.
A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by James A. Brown, a married man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, Mortgagee, dated October 15, 2020 and recorded November 2, 2020 in Liber 1708, Page 567 Van Buren County Records, Michigan.
Said mortgage is now held by Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Twenty-One Thousand Eight and 66/100 Dollars ($121,008.66).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on OCTOBER 9, 2025.
Said premises are located in the Village of Decatur, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
Lot 6, Block 6, Village of Decatur, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 2 of plats, Page 31, Van Buren County Records.
206 Clark St, Decatur, Michigan 49045
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: September 11, 2025
File No. 25-011389
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(09-11)(10-02)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Macario Martinez Jr.; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 9/4/2025; Atty File #: 25-010366; Insurer: GNMA
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on OCTOBER 2, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property.
A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Macario Martinez, Jr., a single man and Selenia Romero, a single woman, as joint tenants with right of survivorship, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Van Dyk Mortgage Corporation, Mortgagee, dated September 21, 2020 and recorded October 5, 2020 in Liber 1707, Page 222 Van Buren County Records, Michigan.
Said mortgage is now held by CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-Eight and 8/100 Dollars ($129,528.08).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on OCTOBER 2, 2025.
Said premises are located in the Township of Hartford, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
LOT 7, SPRINGDALE MANOR, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 5 OF PLATS, PAGE 27, VAN BUREN COUNTY RECORDS.
57880 Springdale Dr, Hartford, Michigan 49057
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: September 4, 2025
File No. 25-010366
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(09-04)(09-25)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Elisa Solis; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 9/4/2025; Atty File #: 25-002484-1; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on October 02, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Elisa Solis and Horton Allen Stanfill, joint tenants Original Mortgagee: Union Home Mortgage Corp. Date of mortgage: June 17, 2019 Recorded on June 27, 2019, Liber 1685, on Page 936, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Six Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-One and 69/100 Dollars ($106,551.69) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lot 3 and 4 in Block F in Village of Decatur, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 2 of plats, Page 31, Van Buren County Records. Commonly known as 115 E Bronson St, Decatur, MI 49045 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1570986
(09-04)(09-25)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Rhonda S Johnston; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 9/25/2025; Atty File #: 25-002634-1; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on October 23, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Rhonda S. Johnston, a single person Original Mortgagee: Summit National Mortgage, LLC Date of mortgage: June 27, 2012 Recorded on July 3, 2012, Liber 1569, on Page 649, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): M&T Bank Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Fifty-Seven Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Five and 40/100 Dollars ($57,245.40) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: That part of the Southwest quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section 14, Town 3 South, Range 14 West, described as beginning at a point found by commencing at the center of the Northeast quarter of Section 14, Town 3 South, Range 14 West, according to the Government Survey thereof, thence South along the Eighth line 520.84 feet to a point which is 7.74 chains South of the intersection of said Eighth line and the centerline of Paw Paw Road, thence North 89 degrees 15` West 410.84 feet to the point of beginning of this description; thence South 240.0 feet, thence North 89 degrees 15` West to the center line of said road, thence Northeasterly on same to a point which is North 89 degrees 15` West of beginning, thence South 89 degrees 15` East to beginning. Commonly known as 36731 Paw Paw Rd, Paw Paw, MI 49079 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. M&T Bank Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1572956
(09-25)(10-16)

MSHDA
MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

September 25, 2025

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE DRAFT MICHIGAN CONSOLIDATED ACTION PLAN EVALUATION REPORT

Prior to submission of the Michigan Consolidated Action Plan Evaluation Report (CAPER) to the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Community Planning and Development, Michigan is required to publish the document for public review and comment. The Consolidated Plan proposes an action strategy by which those needs will be addressed, and the CAPER reflects activities undertaken between July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025. The annual action plans are funded by five formula programs covered in the Michigan Consolidated Plan (HOME, Community Development Block Grant, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDs, the Emergency Solutions Grant, and the Housing Trust Fund). The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) is responsible for preparing the Michigan CAPER and soliciting comments from the public regarding the outcomes tied to the plan on an annual basis.

The comment period will commence on September 25, 2025 and end on October 9, 2025. The primary focus of the comment period is to receive comments regarding the draft CAPER report.

Copies of the CAPER report may be downloaded free of charge from the MSHDA website at www.michigan.gov/mshda.

All interested parties are invited to submit written comments to the attention of Tonya Young, 735 East Michigan Avenue, P.O. Box 30044, Lansing, MI 48909. Written comments must be received no later than October 9, 2025. Comments can also be submitted electronically to mshda-ndd@michigan.gov attention MSHDA Consolidated Plan Coordinator.

Special Assistance: Feedback is encouraged from mobility challenged individuals. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation should contact the Housing Development Division at 517.335.2524 to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

Equal Opportunity Lender

FALL, THE BEST PAN-FISHING OF THE YEAR

Jack Pikaart with an early fall double

Fall is without a doubt the best pan-fishing of the year. I should repeat this because it's hands down superior to any other time period of the year. Fall fishing starts now and will continue until the lakes freeze over.

The boat launch is empty, the pleasure boaters are done for the year, and most of the anglers have taken up other activities or simply given up.

When we mention pan-fishing, we are referring to fishing for bluegill, crappie, and perch. Fall perch fishing on bodies of water that connect to Lake Michigan is a story in itself. And we will cover that in a week or so.

On the inland lakes that we fish, a combination of the two mentioned species and sometimes all three are caught on one outing.

Location can be paramount and vary from lake to lake or within a lake. Generally, between October 1 and October 12, some of the fish will start using the shoreline structure.

Five-foot depths, plus or minus a foot or two, can be very productive. Other schools will be found hovering in the deeper basins of the lake. On many of our lakes, this depth is between twenty-five to thirty feet. The fish will be found nose to the bottom and perhaps halfway up.

Our favorite locations are the deep- water basin fish. I just love locating a school of deep-water fish. Almost always, this will be a mixed bag of fish. Often, we will find the bluegill slightly higher than the crappie.

Side Scan will pinpoint these large schools of fish. We set our side scan to read 80 feet on each side of the boat. Once a school is located, we throw out a marker buoy. We continue onward looking for a second school in the same vicinity.

When we are fishing depths greater than fifteen feet, we fish vertical. Shallower depths we cast and follow our baits down until they hit the bottom. When casting, once the bait hits the bottom, we let it sit for a few minutes and then twitch it in a foot or so.

In nearly any situation, we fish a tandem rig. The tandem rig can be made up with a combination of the following. Some type of perch fly, which could be a fish skin bait, or a fly made with marabou. Glow in the dark teardrops, pinky style jigs, small bluegill flies, small crappie jigs, with my favorites being made with marabou, deer hair, or chinchilla.

We tip these baits with either a piece of worm when the water temperatures are above 55 degrees, or a wax worm when the water is cooler. If we suspect that crappie or perch are possible, then we carry a dozen or two minnows.

I rarely use minnows in warm water. Once the water temperature falls to the low 50s or into the 40s, then I will get a bit more serious about using minnows.

As the water cools, your retrieve or drift needs to slow down. Drifting between .3 mph and up to a half mile per hour is ok early in the fall. As the cool weather kicks in, your bait needs to become nearly stationary. Think about how fast you move in the winter, so move slowly.

An overlooked bait that worked well for us in the past was the Gulp Minnow. The one-inch minnow caught plenty of bluegill, perch, and crappie. A friend put on until this bait, and it works surprisingly well. Quick tip: the local stores sell out of the bait quickly and will not restock until spring

Adding glow to your presentation increases your return. A glow-in-the-dark teardrop, a fly with a glow strand of flashabou, or a small glow egg added to your line for some crazy reason, draws in the fish.

Jack Payne

Payne is a member of OWAA (outdoor writers association of America). He is an avid outdoorsperson who enjoys fishing, hunting, hiking and cooking. This column will hopefully enhance your outdoor experiences. "While I may have some knowledge, I am very fortunate that I do know many true experts that share their knowledge with me," said Payne. "Together, hopefully we all can learn and experience more fun in the great outdoors." Payne resides in southwest Michigan. His column will appear weekly in the Courier Leader/ Flashes.

We fish with two rods and most often with two different baits or lures on each rod. Once the fish tells us their preferred preference, we will switch the balance of the baits and lures.

Fall fishing is amazing, the lakes are empty of anglers, and an amazing time to fish. Stop in at Bob's Gun and Tackle for your fall hunting and fishing products.

VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village of Mattawan has renewed the franchise agreement with DirecTV. This renewal will go into effect four weeks after the publication of this notice. A copy in full of the franchise agreement renewal is on file and available for public inspection at the Village of Mattawan Office located at the address below.

Village of Mattawan
24221 Front Avenue, Mattawan, MI 49071
(269) 668-2128 • offices@mattawanmi.com
Jolie Storm-Artis, Village Clerk

NOTICE TO WAVERLY TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

Waverly Township will sponsor a Two Day Clean-up for the residents of Waverly Township.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
October 3 & 4
FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. BOTH DAYS
WAVERLY TOWNSHIP HALL 42114 M-43

Attendants will be on duty to check ID'S
You must have identification to prove you are a Waverly Township Resident

THERE WILL BE A TIRE TRAILER AVAILABLE
Will be accepting small and medium size Tractor Tires

WE WILL NOT ACCEPT:
Cement, Chemicals or Hazardous Materials, no dead animals, loose trash, shingles, medical waste, insulation or paint (unless the paint is completely dry and the lid off)

Waverly Township
Tony Millek, Supervisor
269-657-1776

LIKE US ON

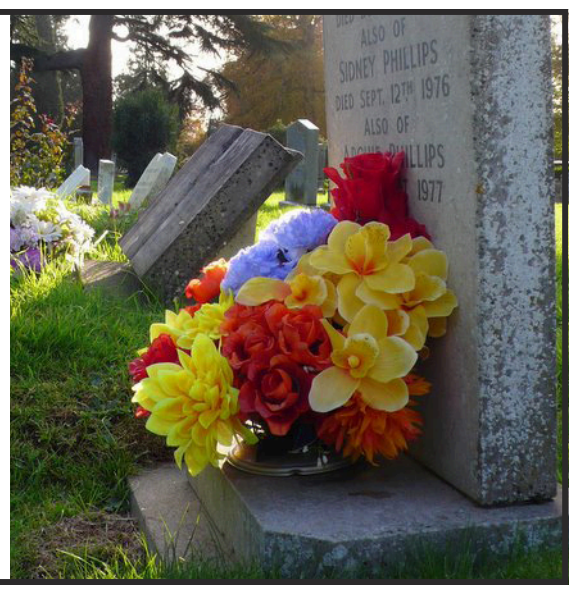
FOLLOW US TO GET MORE NEWS

NOTICE

Please remove all summer wreaths, and flower decorations from Paw Paw Township cemeteries

BEFORE OCTOBER 1 ST

Thank You
Paw Paw Township Supervisor.



PUBLIC NOTICE
TO PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy Test for the November 4, 2025 General Election has been scheduled for Thursday, October 2, at 5:00 p.m., at the Pine Grove Township Hall, 26520 CR 388, Gobles, MI.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate the Program and the computer that will be used to tabulate the results of the election, counts the votes in the manner prescribed by the law.

MICHELLE MEERT
Pine Grove Township Clerk

PAW PAW TOWNSHIP
114 N. Gremps Street
Paw Paw, Michigan 49079

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE Public Accuracy Test for the November 4, 2025 Special Election has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 7th , 2025 at 9:00 A.M. at the Township Hall at 114 N. Gremps Street, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to determine that the program and the computer being used to tabulate the results of the election, counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

Rebecca F Payne
Township Clerk

VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN
RESCHEDULE DDA REGULAR OCTOBER MEETING

The Village of Mattawan DDA is rescheduling the regular meeting of:

October 21, 2025 at 8:30 AM
to
Thursday, October 9, 2025 at 4:00 PM.

The meeting is open to the public and will be held at Village Hall, 24221 Front Ave.

Call the Village Office at
269-668-2128 with any questions.

VILLAGE HALL
24221 FRONT AVENUE
MATTAWAN, MI 49071
(269) 668-2128

Jolie Storm-Artis, Village Clerk
September 16, 2025

CLASSIFIEDS

• WANTED •

WE BUY OLD BASEBALL CARDS, OTHER SPORTS MEMORABILIA AND OLD VINTAGE COINS. CAN BE REACHED AT 517-416-1629. WE PAY CASH.

CLARK'S AUTO PARTS, INC. is buying cars, trucks & all metals for recycling. Lawrence, 674-4905 or 1-800-707-8650.

STANDING TIMBER. Top Michigan lumber manufacturer seeking landowners with 25 or more mature hardwood trees to sell. Qualityhardwoodsinc.com • 517-566-8061.

• SERVICES •

TIM'S STUMP GRINDING SERVICE- I believe in respectable service. 269-299-5052, 269-624-6884.

GRANT DALY PAINTING: Interior/exterior residential, commercial, industrial. Great references & free estimates. Call 657-7893.

HAULING, CLEANING RECYCLING. Moving service. Right Quick Hauling. Dan Wydick, Dustin Wydick, Daniel Wydick, 423-8545. Serving since 1994.

FIELD PLUMBING & HEATING, INC. Services all brands of heating & cooling equipment in your home or business. 24/7 service for over 50 years, 269-674-3839.

BUYING JUNK CARS, trucks, scrap metal and farm machinery. Kalamazoo Metal Recyclers, 1525 King Highway, Kalamazoo. 269-381-1315.

BUDGET APPLIANCE SERVICE, 269-685-8902. Call us today for your appliance repair or service needs! Quality service at affordable prices.

PRO HANDYMAN SERVICE
SOUTH HAVEN AREA
Call 269-903-6397.

MEDICARE GURU
Call
Janet Bontrager
Insurance Advisor
(269) 998-6977

• HOUSING •

WANTED IN SOUTH HAVEN
Rental for winter months. Oct 2025 thru April 30, 2026. 3 bedrooms. 240-215-5081.

• AUCTION •

ALL SECURE SELF STORAGE will hold sale of abandoned property at a public sale pursuant in 540.521-570.527: Public Auction: 9/30/2025 at or after 9:30a.m. EST: 37404 W Red Arrow Highway Paw Paw: Chris Beeman, 10; Erin Hagenbuch, 55; Daniel Hossler, 234.

• PUPPIES •

GREAT PYRENEES, 2 MALES, all shots and neutered, 6 months old. $600 each. 269-767-6105.

• SALES •

BARN SALE
Lots of building materials, movies, records, tables, chairs, storage containers. All contents will be sold. Pole barn and property to be sold in future. Thurs-Fri- Sat, 10-6. next door to 47 Marion St, Hartford.

Want to feel the "care" in health care again?
That's where we shine.

Whether you're hoping for easier access to care or a provider who truly listens, you can count on Beacon. That's how we've earned a reputation in our communities as the leader in comprehensive services — raising care standards and delivering an uplifting patient experience.

Learn how Beacon Health is creating a brighter future for patients across southwest Michigan at BeaconHealthSystem.org/Shine.

BEACON HEALTH SYSTEM

Van Buren County 4-H sponsors Tractor, Truck, or Treat on Oct. 4

HARTFORD - Get ready for an early jump on Halloween trick or treating when Van Buren County 4-H sponsors the third Tractor, Truck, or Treat, Saturday, Oct. 4, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Van Buren Youth fairgrounds, 55670 County Road 681, Hartford.

West Valley 4-H Livestock Key Leader Amy Mortimore said, "The event is like 'touch-a-truck' meets 'trunk-or-treat'. What better way to celebrate 4-H and children."

Treaters will decorate a tractor, truck, emergency vehicle, or farm equipment that will be used to distribute treats to children. Just like any other trunk or treat, the amount of decoration is up to the treaters. Event Coordinator Denise Noble said, "The fairgrounds has lots of room to spread out and allow for large vehicles. We are excited for our third year, with many vehicles returning and some new ones, including the Lions Club sight testing unit. We will also have several food trucks."

Several businesses, organizations, and proud truck owners have already signed up to pass out candy to children, according to Noble. There is no cost to families. To register a vehicle, send a request to v.voyagers@yahoo.com

Auditions set for Paw Paw Village Players presentation of Dickens' A Christmas Carol

PAW PAW - The Paw Paw Village Players have announced upcoming auditions for their annual presentation of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol.

For those who saw last year's production, it was presented with a slightly different twist than they may have been used to seeing. This year, once again, the production will have a different spin but maintaining Dickens' original story.

Auditions are Oct. 6 and 7, at 6:30 p.m.at The Lucky Wolf mainstage, 404 East Michigan Ave., Paw Paw. Director Tonya Tucker suggests visiting the show website at: www.ppvp.org for more information.

Show dates are Dec.5, 6, 12 and 13 at 7 p.m. at The Lucky Wolf.

Avoid contact and irrigation in the Paw Paw River now through Oct. 2

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) sea lamprey control program will be treating the Paw Paw River with lampricide between now through Oct. 2. With this treatment, notice has been given to suspend irrigation and limit contact with the Paw Paw River for 24 hours during and following treatment.

Sea lamprey are well known for their sucker mouths full of teeth that they use to latch on to salmon and trout in the Great Lakes. But that's only the full-grown adults. Young sea lamprey spend three or more years burrowed in the bottom of rivers like the Paw Paw River. Special chemicals called "lampricides" manage young sea lamprey at this stage before they can enter the Great Lakes to harm native fish.

Since the sea lamprey control program began in 1958 the population of sea lamprey in the Great Lakes has been reduced by 90 percent, allowing native fish populations to survive. To learn more about the USFWS's sea lamprey control program, visit: https://www.fws.gov/story/combating-sea-lamprey-great-lakes-new-technologies

For additional information, call the Ludington Biological Station at (231) 843-7000.

Library's Hotspot Program Transforms Digital Access for area communities

The Van Buren District Library (VBDL) is closing the digital divide in southwest Michigan through its popular Mobile Internet Hotspot lending program in partnership with Mobile Beacon, a non-profit provider of cellular broadband Internet services.

Since launching in early 2022, the program has empowered library patrons across Van Buren County to access high-speed internet from home, school, or on the go, no matter where they live. In a rural region where broadband access is often unreliable or unavailable, this service has become a lifeline for many.

"Many of our residents are low-income and lack affordable broadband at home." Daywi Cook, the Covert Township Supervisor comments, "The library's innovative mobile hotspot lending program — one of the largest and most impactful in the nation — has been transformative."

In just the first half of 2025, VBDL's 420 hotspot devices provided patrons with over 312,000 gigabytes (GB) of data, which is 45 times the national average and nearly 100 times the median usage within Mobile Beacon's network.

Van Buren District Library's Executive Director, Dan Hutchins, elaborated "when we started this program back in 2022, we were simply trying to serve the community. It never entered my mind that it was even possible a rural library system such as ours could exceed the data distribution of Mobile Beacon's large, urban library clients; I'm astonished."

"I am currently a single dad that relies on the internet for just about everything. We use it to watch movies, play games, work on homework, watch YouTube, videos and help with looking for work. Without this service, we would not be able to afford this basic necessity." - David S., a VBDL patron.

The Van Buren District Library is headquartered in Decatur and serves Van Buren County, southwest MI from its seven locations in Bangor, Bloomingdale, Covert, Decatur, Gobles, Lawrence, and Mattawan.

AREA CHURCH SERVICES

PAW PAW

ALMENA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
27503 CR 375
Pastor Len Schoenherr
668-2811 • www.almenaumc.com
SUNDAY
Worship - 11 a.m.
(Childcare Provided)
FRIDAY: AA- 8 p.m.

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COVEY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
33566 28th Avenue
(corner of 28th & M-40)
269-628-2139 • www.coveyhill.org
Pastor Daniel Wilson
SUNDAY
Worship @10:45am
Nursery & Children's Church provided
Messages available on YouTube

••••

FAITH OF THE APOSTLES CURCH
34580 M-40 Highway
Elder David Harn
1 (269) 512-4586
SUNDAY
Christian Education - 10 a.m.
Wroship Service - 11:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY • Bible Study - 7 p.m.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
32464 Red Arrow
Pastor Horace M. "Buddy" Turner... 657-2090
SUNDAY
Worship - 11 a.m.
on Facebook: www.Facebook.com/buddyturner2 or search: "Buddy Turner"

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
120 Pine St, Paw Paw
Worship: 11am Sundays in person or online at - www.pawpawpres.com or www.youtube.com/@1stprespawpaw

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NEW HOPE FAMILY
201 W. Michigan Avenue
Pastor Mark Roberts
www.newhopefellowship.org
SUNDAY
Morning Worship - 10 a.m.

••••

PAW PAW SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CURCH
60409 South M-40
Pastor Sean Reed
Lawn Services - 10 a.m. & 11 a.m.
www.pawpaw.church
Oline worship services on Facebook & YourTube

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PAW PAW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
420 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-657-7727
Pastor Dan Phillips
Sunday Service at 9:30 am

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RED ARROW MINISTRIES
31133 Red Arrow Highway
Rev. G. Ben Bowater, IV
Founding Pastor
SUNDAY Worship - 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
www.redarrowministries.org for live stream worship

••••

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
412 Cedar Street
Handicap Accessible
657-3762 • www.stmarkpawpaw.com
e-mail: stmarkspawpaw@gmail.com
Mailing Address:
P.O.Box 307, Paw Paw, MI 49079
SUNDAY Worship 9:30 a.m.

••••

ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
500 Paw Paw Street
Fr. Dave Pinto
657-4459
SATURDAY Vigil - 4:00 p.m.
SUNDAY MASSES - 9AM & 11AM
Holy days & Daily Masses Consult Bulletin

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
721 Pine Street
Pastor Phillip Phifer
Church: 657-4840
School: 657-5921
Sunday Services 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

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TRUTH CHURCH
32560 56th Ave. • 657-5042
www.truthchurchpawpaw.com
Pastor Steven Green
SUNDAY
School - 10 a.m.
Evening Service - 6 p.m.
THURSDAY Bible Study - 7 p.m.

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IGLESIA DEL ESPÍRITU SANTO/ CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
30037 E Red Arrow Hwy., Bilingual
Pastors Maggie and Jay Salas
Domingo/Sunday: Adoración | Worship- 10 a.m.
Jueves/Thursday: Oracion/ Estudió Bíblico | Prayer/Bible Study- 7 p.m.
(269) 377-6514/ (269) 993-6727

LAWTON

DAILY HARVEST MINISTRIES
117 S.Franklin Street
Pastor Jack Shanley
SUNDAY Worship - 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Bible Study - 6 p.m.

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IGLESIA PENTECOSTES
Eel Movimiento misionero Mundial, Inc.
Bilingual
117 S. Franklin Street
Pastors Arturo & Lourdez Hernandez
(616) 656-0137
SERVICES Domingo - 9:30 a.m.
Martes y Jueves - 7:30 p.m.
Local: (269) 655-8071

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LAWTON EVANGELICAL CHURCH
425 S. Nursery Street, Lawton • 624-1524
Call if you need help in some way
www.lawtonevan.com
SUNDAY Worship Services - 10 a.m.
We offer Nursery and Children's Church

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NEW COMMUNITY CHURCH
502 N. Main Street, Lawton, MI 49065
Pastor Adam Potgiesser
Sunday Worship 10am
www.nc2online.com • facebook.com/nc2online
(269) 299-2003

••••

ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
624-1050
Pastor Ashlei Horn
SUNDAY Worship - 10:00 a.m.
www.stpoulsumclawton.com or on Facebook
www.Facebook.com/Lawton-St-Pauls-UMC

MARCELLUS

ST. MARGARET MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH
296 E. Dibble St.
Rev. John Tran.
668-3312
SUNDAY - 9:45AM

••••

HARMONY CHAPEL
88067 C.R. 652 (In the SW corner of Porter Twp.)
Rev. Ron Packer
269-548-7348
Please join us as we continue to Worship in the Country
Since 1894
SUNDAY Service - 12:30 p.m.
For mor information or directions call:
Neal Ferguson: 269-624-6837
or
Ann Nesbitt: 269-624-6781

DECATUR

DECATUR BIBLE CHURCH
80797 M-51, Decatur • (269) 423-5111
Pastor Steven Pace
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer 5:00 p.m.
facebook.com/DecaturBibleChurch • http://www.decaturbible.org

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Decatur New Hope Community Church
319 ½ West Delaware Street
Pastor Ross Tarantino
SUNDAY • Worship Service-10:00 a.m.
TUESDAY • Bible Study-1:00 p.m.
269-423-8136
info@decaturnewhopecommunity.net

MATTAWAN

Calvary Community Church
7829 S. 5th St
Pastor Gregory VanHeukelom
375-6240 • www.calvaryreformed.org
Website: https://www.calvary-community.church/
Worship still 10 am Sunday with live Facebook
Jody's Closet, a free clothing ministry is open Mon/Tue 10am-12 and Thur 6-7:30pm And the 1st Saturday of the month 8:30-10am.••••

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
56070 Murray Street
Pastor Chuck Rawsthorne
SUNDAY
School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Service - 10:30 a.m.
(In person and on Facebook)

••••

MATTAWAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
23680 Front Ave.
668-3263 • www.mattawancc.com
mattawancommunitychurch@gmail.com
Pastor Eric Baird
SUNDAYS AT 10:25 A.M

••••

ST. JOHN BOSCO CATHOLIC CHURCH
23830 Front Ave.
Rev. John Tran
668-3312 • www.stjbparish.com
Sunday Mass times to 8:00 AM & 11:30 AM Saturday Vigil 4:00PM

LAWRENCE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Corner of Exchange & James Street • 674-8381
Pastor Doug Tipken
SUNDAY Worship - 11 a.m.
lawrencemethodist-church.org for information of online videos

GOBLES

NORTHPOINT MINISTRIES OF GOBLES
04077 M40 • 269-628-9199
northpointgobles@gmail.com
Pastors: Gary Lounsberry & John Losen Jr.
Sunday: 11am - Morning Worship
Monday: 7 pm - REFRESH Bible Study
Wednesday: 7pm - Prayer Meeting

DIRECTORY OF CHURCH SERVICES IS PROVIDED BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS

THE CLOTHES BASKET
314 Paw Paw Street
Paw Paw • **657-6441**

DE SMIA Insurance Agency, INC.
130 N. Main Street
Lawton • **624-4411**

CAMPBELL MURCH CEMETERY MEMORIALS, INC.
56556 Main Street
Mattawan • **668-3350**

Adams FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES
ADAMS FUNERAL HOME
Serving the Community Since 1948
504 W. Michigan Avenue
Paw Paw • **657-6347**

HIEMSTRA OPTICAL CO.
Michael Houser & staff
133 E. Michigan Avenue
Paw Paw • **657-4511**

ST JULIAN winery • distillery
Michigan's Oldest & Largest Winery
716 S. Kalamazoo Street
Paw Paw • **657-5568**

BRONSON LakeView Hospital
408 Hazen Street
Paw Paw • **657-3141**